American Studies

Homework

Mercantilism, the Navigation Acts and Population pressures

1. How are the Navigation Acts a form of mercantilism?
2. Which of the Navigation Acts described did you think was the most onerous on the Colonists and why?
3. Today we have many forms of taxes, sales tax, income tax, property tax as well as many license fees (which is a form of tax as well). There are both legal and illegal ways to avoid paying those taxes. What are some tax avoidance methods that you have heard about or are familiar with?
4. How did the colonists try to avoid tax?
5. How do you think the colonists rationalized their avoidance?
6. To what extent was the avoidance successful?
7. What could the British government have done to try to stem tax avoidance?
8. The colonies were initially a “free trade” zone, the internet today is a tax free zone, how do you think the internet and those using the internet would be affected by a tax on internet transactions?

Population



Look at the above map as well as read the short reading on the population of the British American Colonies and the French Colony. To what extent does the map and the population trends foretell a conflict.